Abstract

Compound of the general formula (I)

$$X(B)_m \qquad (I)$$

wherein

X is an m-valent unit and

B are identical or different and denote K-R,

wherein

K is a bond or is A^1-(A^2-A^3)$_k$-sp, wherein

A^1 is $(CH_2)_tY(CH_2)_u$, wherein

Y is >C=O, >NH, -O-, -S- or a bond,

t is an integer from 0 to 6 and

u is an integer from 0 to 6,

A^2 is -NHCO-, -CONH-, -OCONH- or SCONH-, or is –CO-,

A^3 is $(CH_2)_r$, $O(CH_2)_r$, $NH(CH_2)_r$, $S(CH_2)_r$ or -(CHQ)-, wherein

r is an integer from 1 to 6 and

Q is a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl or aryl group,

sp is a divalent spacer or a bond, and

k is an integer from 5 to 100, and

R is hydrogen; a ligand suitable for specific bonding to a receptor; a marker molecule; or a catalytically active group; and

m is at least 2,

with the proviso that

(1) in the compound at least one R is not hydrogen,

(2) there are at least two K that are not a bond, and

(3) X, B and m are so selected that an intermolecular association of the K in liquid phase by the formation of hydrogen bonds is possible, with formation of aggregates that present on the surface a plurality of R that are not hydrogen, and

(4) the molar mass of the fragment $X(K)_m$ is less than 20,000.